THE

MOUNTAIN COTTAGE;

OR, THE

WELL INSTRUCTED FAMILY.

WITH PLATES.

1838.

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Agnes L. Greene.

THOMAS COLE
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Agnes L. Greene.

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THE WELL INSTRUCTED FAMILY.

THE BOWER.

THE

MOUNTAIN COTTAGE;

OR, THE

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Founded on Fact.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

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INTRODUCTION.

In commencing the short account of the interesting family which is the subject of this little book, the writer was somewhat at a stand whether to call it "The Happy Family," or "The Well Instructed Family." She might, with equal propriety, call it either; for in this case, as in most others, good regulation and instruction were the direct causes of much happiness in this family. This is the moral she designs to teach her young readers in these little pages;—to inculcate as pleasantly and as forcibly as she is able, the important truth, that the orderly, the virtuous, and the industrious use of time is the only way to ensure a good degree of rational happiness in this life; while the misspending of it, either in indolence, trifling, or in a constant and irregular seeking after pleasure, is the sure way to lose it.

THE MOUNTAIN COTTAGE;

OR

THE WELL INSTRUCTED FAMILY.

Mr. and Mrs. Smithson had five children,—three daughters and two sons. The eldest was fourteen years of age,—the youngest six years old. Mr Smithson was well towards forty years of age before he had the care of a family; but he had seen much of the world, and was a close observer of things in life,—so his judgment was mature and good. Mrs. Smithson was an amiable and excellent lady, but of very poor health, and very infirm, al-

though not yet fifty years of age. Some few years before the time at which I write, she had a violent fever, which, in the end, deprived her, in a great measure, of the use of her limbs. Still, her mind was sound and strong; and she was able to do much towards the care and instruction of her children. But Mr. S. having no particular business to engage his attention,—I mean in the way of trade or labor, took the management and instruction of his children principally upon himself. This he did for more than one reason. He loved children,—and what is very natural, he loved his own very much. He had a particular tact for instructing, and a very good faculty for unfolding the young mind, in which he took great

delight. As I said before, as he had no regular business to take up his time, the care of his interesting little family was a constant source of employment and pleasure.

How fortunate are children who are thus situated in life! But they should well remember, that if they thus enjoy great advantages, much will be expected of them from the world; and much will be required of them by their Maker. There are many parents with large families whose time is taken up almost necessarily in taking care of their bodies;—that is, in providing them a house for shelter, clothing to wear, and food to eat,—who have but a little time, snatched now and then, to give them that instruction which

forms the mind and the heart. This they have to intrust to others; and, in many cases, it is almost or quite neglected.

Yet those children whose parents have not the time, nor perhaps the ability of giving them much instruction, should remember that this does not clear them from the duty of learning much that is necessary and good;—that there are so many other ways which are provided for their instruction,—such as public schools, sunday schools, and good books, that almost all can obtain; that, if they do not learn, the fault will be in a great measure their own; and they must answer for the neglect, and suffer the ill consequences.

Mr. Smithson had seen much of the world

and mankind. He had resided, in the way of business, in Europe and Asia; and had acquired much wealth. A short time before his marriage he returned to his native country to spend the remainder of his days in domestic employments and quiet. It was not the case with Mr. S. as is too often the case with a great many, that in seeing much of the world and in getting riches they are not made wiser and better, but perhaps much worse. Mr. S. was naturally a man of a sober and reflective mind; and from every thing he saw, whether good or bad, he gathered instruction,—as the bee will extract honey even from poisonous plants.

Twenty years of industry abroad had made

him, what is considered in this country, a wealthy man; and having a disposition for retirement and study—though the course of his life thus far had been very different, on returning to his own country, he resolved to indulge his natural inclination; believing that it was favorable to his virtue and his happiness.

With this rational intention he bought a beautiful situation within a few miles of the city of H. It was called the "Mountain Cottage." It had been somewhat neglected of late years; but Mr. S. had the determination, the taste and the means of improving and beautifying it. This he did; and rendered it a most charming place.

It was naturally one of the most beautiful

situations in the country. The mansion was upon a hill of considerable height, and overlooked a beautiful and spacious bay. It was inclosed by an extensive garden, containing the finest fruit and ornamental trees; and the grounds had many pretty groves, and a fine pond of water. Mr. S. with the knowledge and acquaintance he had gained abroad, had the means of getting much from other countries in the way of rare fruits and plants. He rebuilt the house in the style of some European cottages which he had seen; and in the course of a few years rendered it a delightful residence in all respects.

But in speaking of the residence, I am keeping my young readers too long from the

main business of my story,—from the well instructed and interesting family themselves. At the period from which I date my story, this family, as I said before, consisted of the parents and five children. Emeline, Mary, Herbert, Louisa and Henry were the names of the children, whose ages ranged in the order in which I have named them. The father's time was principally taken up in the management and instruction of his children. He had a good education himself, and was a man of very correct principles,—that is, he believed in the obligation and practised the duties of social morality and religion.

As he had learned much in this way, so he designed to teach his children to observe, to

converse upon, to reflect upon, and to draw instruction from almost every thing that daily occurred and came under their observation. Almost every hour when he was with them presented something for this purpose. "Well, I declare," said little Louisa, who was distinguished for her wit and vivacity, one day as her father at the tea table was giving a description of the production of sugar in the West Indies, and telling of the sin of slavery as connected with it,—"I declare pa' has taken his text upon sugar, and is going to give us a sweet sermon, I suppose." "Yes, my dear children," said Mrs. Smithson, "without speaking irreverently, every thing may be said to afford a text for a sermon; and it is

your father's wise practice to draw instruction from what is before you. This is the way to learn easily, pleasantly and well. Knowledge lies strown along in our daily way, like as it were precious metals and beautiful flowers in our path; and it is surely our duty not to overlook and slight them.

Mr. Smithson was a man of much method and regularity in all his doings. He laid his plans carefully, and followed them as near as he was able. This he taught his children, in all that regarded their studies and their amusements. He used to tell them, that although they were not certain of the continuance of life, yet it was their duty to look forward and lay out their plans, and then govern them-

selves by these plans as nearly as circumstances would admit;—by this orderly arrangement of their time, more could be done, and in a better manner, and with greater satisfaction to themselves. If they did not live to accomplish their plans, no harm would certainly result from it;—but if they did, it would certainly contribute to their happiness.

The annual return of a New-Year's Day was one of much expectation with the family, and one of great pleasure. On this day the father presented to each of his children some appropriate present;—reviewed the principal events of the year that was past, connected with the family,—pointing out to them where they had done well, and in what things they

had fallen short of duty. On this day, too, some general plans, for the coming year, were laid, in things which regarded their studies, as well as their amusements.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

It was on the morning of the first day of the year 18—, that Mr. Smithson had assembled his family, as had been his custom, in his Library, a large room well stocked with books, and many interesting curiosities which he had collected and brought from foreign countries. It was a clear, bright winter-day morning,—the weather having just cleared up from a moderate fall of snow which now covered the ground for the first time in the season. Every eye of the family beamed bright with gladness.

After appropriate religious services, Mr. S. reminded his children of the occasion which had brought them together that morning. Although it was a time which was generally given up to joy and mirth, he requested his children to mix some sober reflections with the joyous feelings which sprung up in their minds. He told them that in looking back upon the year which had just closed, they would find much to move the gratitude of their hearts towards their Maker and his providence;—that their lives had been spared,—that a good measure of health along with many other blessings had been allowed them. He enjoined them to reflect, that another year had been added to their lives,—of course they

had incurred greater responsibilities,—and that they were certainly one year nearer the end of their lives.

After a few well timed remarks of this kind, he told them, that agreeably to his former custom, he had provided some simple presents, such as he deemed appropriate to each. "Oh, let me have mine," said little Henry, eagerly, his cheeks heightening the ruddy glow which he had already acquired that morning before breakfast, in sliding down hill with the sled which his father gave him just a year before. "You must wait, my son, for your turn,—and learn to correct your natural impatience. You are always in too much of a hurry to possess yourself of your gratifications; and in this way

you often lose half the pleasure. I have read, somewhere, of the boy who could not wait to have the fruit ripen upon his tree; but impatiently ate it when green. In this way he lost the pleasure of eating ripe fruit, and made himself ill.

The kind father then produced the presents, one by one, beginning with the eldest; and in bestowing them, accompanied the gift with some pleasant good advice. Little Henry, being the last, could hardly restrain his impatience. At last his turn came,—and the father opening the drawer of his writing table handed out a very pretty toy which called forth the delighted exclamation of all. Henry could hardly keep his hands from it till his

THE WELL INSTRUCTED FAMILY.

THE NEW YEAR'S PRESENT.

father was ready to put it in his possession. It was a miniature representation of Noah's Ark,—a boat, and the building within it.—Henry promised to learn the story of Noah's Ark in the Bible, and relate it to his father the next Sabbath. Herbert looked at his own present, and then at this,—and showed something of a feeling of dissatisfaction,—as if he preferred this to his own. His mother noticed the expression of his countenance, and took occasion to correct the feeling. She told him that it was a bad feeling, because it was envious and covetous ;—that he liked his own, in fact ; but now had a desire for both. He acknowledged the justice of the rebuke, and became satisfied.

These presents were not costly, any of them; for although Mr. S. had the means of indulging his children to the utmost, he was not extravagant or lavish in his gifts. He had taught them to be satisfied with simple gifts and pleasures; and inculcated the important truth that many who have much are apt to undervalue what they have—become dissatisfied, and greedy of more, until there is no limit to their desires.

After they had got through with this part of the business of the day, and had talked upon the subject of the new studies which each was to enter upon,—"My children," said the father, "I have a plan connected with your recreation for the year which we have

now begun, that I think will meet your inclinations. As your birth days all happen at different parts of the year, I propose on each of these days to treat you to different recreations. A SLEIGH RIDE to take place on one,—A JOURNEY, of a day or two at the time of another,—A WATER PARTY for the third,—A WALK of some distance, on another,—and A PARTY of your companions for the last." All clapped their hands in view of this plan.—"Mine will be a sleigh ride," said Henry, "for my birth-day comes this month." "And mine shall be a sailing party," said Herbert, "for my birth-day is in June,—and it will be just the time for it." The others were left to be arranged among the sisters.

THE SLEIGH RIDE.

The day for the sleigh ride soon arrived,—which was on the 20th of January. Henry was up early in the morning ;—in fact, he had hardly slept during the night for thinking of the expected ride and pleasure which he was to derive. On this day he completed his sixth year. The animation of face, which the return of his birth day and the pleasure of the ride were calculated to give, was somewhat clouded by the appearance of the weather which did not promise a fair day. The other children

shew some anxiety and disappointment; but not so much as Henry. The father took occasion at breakfast to correct the feelings which he plainly saw were working in their little bosoms. Addressing himself principally to Henry, he told him that now was the time for him to begin to correct such feelings; and learn to bear up against his little disappointments and difficulties. They were small troubles, to be sure, but they were sufficient to exercise his patience and fortitude. His Maker has so ordered it, that children should have their little trials in order to discipline them, and form their characters;—to learn them by degrees to meet with a proper mind those greater ones with which they would all

have to contend, as they grew up and had to take their parts in life. They would find that they could not control the weather, and order all things to their wishes;—the only thing they had then to learn, was to submit with patience and cheerfulness. The very thing which now grieved them so much was in fact for their good if they rightfully considered it,—and would in the end be better for their happiness than if they had found it fair weather, and all agreeable to their wishes. The children were all attentive, and seemed to think of the subject; and if it did not wholly overcome their feelings of disappointment, it reconciled them in part.

It proved, however, to be only a light snow

storm from thin clouds; and by 9 o'clock, it was all fair weather without, and bright faces with the members of the family. The span of grey horses was soon harnessed in the double sleigh; and the children were all dressed in their warmest, winter garments and furs.

Perhaps some of my young readers may think that so common and simple a thing as a ride was made a great deal more of at the Mountain Cottage than they should think it would have been;—that in a gentleman's family where horses and carriages were kept, the children would ride so often it would cease to be a new thing, and would be thought very little of. Mr S. kept his horses and

carriages; but at the same time he did not indulge his children in riding very frequently, and for the good reason, if he did, it would soon cease to give them much pleasure. He taught them, that proper and rational enjoyment is gained only by the moderate use of any means; and that those who are indulged to the extent of their wishes in any thing, soon lose the relish for enjoyment. This rule he practised rigidly; and the things which were intended for their amusement and recreation they enjoyed with great zest.

The father and children were now all closely seated in the sleigh, well protected with buffalo robes. The daughters particularly, regretted much that the health of their

mother, who was standing at the window to see them depart, did not permit her to share their pleasure. They had a careful and experienced driver,—and all things were now ready. Herbert, in going down the avenue, declared that when they got to the village, they would give three cheers, as Mr Birchmore's School did the other day when they went on a ride. The father thought that it had better be omitted, as there were young ladies in the party; and if they attempted it with only *two* boys it would prove but a very poor hurra.

It was a clear, beautiful day, and not very cold for mid-winter. The light fall of snow during the morning had served to make the

sleighing better; and they now skimmed along very quickly and very happily. The gingling of the merry bells gave animation to the scene; and the children, exhilerated by the clear, bracing air, were in high spirits. Herbert became very anxious to try his hand at driving, for" said he, "I could drive one horse last winter,—and I think that I am able to drive two now." "Dear father," said Emeline "do not permit him to drive, for he will surely upset us." 'That's half the fun of a sleigh ride' said Herbert. Mr. Smithson consented to let him take the reins for a moment; and the consequence was that he soon drove them into a deep snow-bank,—but without any damage. "You must learn, my

dear son, to be cautious how you undertake things to which your age and strength are not equal; and in which you have not had experience,—especially where the safety of others as well as of yourself is concerned. All things are learned by practice; and when you are older and stronger, you will undoubtedly make a very skilful driver."

Little Louisa, who now began to feel something of the cold, declared "that she thought it would be beautiful sleigh riding in warm weather." This remark called forth a hearty laugh from all the children. Mary observed that cold weather and sleighing must go together, and that snow was not found, in any considerable degree, except in cold latitudes,—

and that there was little or none south of 40°." "That depends somewhat upon the situation of the country,—for in some places which are considerably north of 40° they have little or no snow,—as is the case in England, and other countries in Europe." "That is owing," said Emeline, "to the fact that England is an Island, and being surrounded by salt water, which considerably lessens the severity of the weather, whether of heat or cold."

"You have spent a winter in St. Petersburgh, father," said Mary;—"I suppose they have a great deal of snow there." "Yes, there is much snow that falls there, and it lies constantly, without frequent thaws as in our

own climate, for nearly six months." "What a capital country to live in," said Herbert,—"they can have sleigh-riding, sliding down hill, skating and snow-balling enough."—"Yes," said Mr. S. "they have enough of those things; but then they have a good deal of suffering among the poor in consequence of the severity of the climate. Where it is cold, more clothing, food, fuel, and better houses are required; and people who have not much, get along much easier in warm countries than in cold."

"But where they have such long winters," said Louisa, "I should think they could not have much summer,—not enough to have the fruit and all such things grow." "It is wise-

ly ordered by the Maker of the world," said the father, "that every thing there shall grow quickly. In Russia they have not long springs and autumns as we have,—but summer succeeds winter immediately; and winter comes on very quickly after the summer. In a very short time after the snow has melted away, the grass becomes green, and the trees put forth their leaves and their blossoms. This is wisely made so by Him who has planned every thing in wisdom;—otherwise, in very cold countries, they could not have vegetables and fruits come to maturity." "How delightful this must be," said Emeline, "to see all nature bursting forth in its beauty so suddenly."

The little party had now ridden two or three hours, and had got some way into the country. Every thing had been so animated, and the day being unusually mild, that even the smallest of them felt little inconvenience from the cold. They frequently noticed the high woody hills, the dark green appearance of which formed a striking contrast with the white snow. "I declare," said Henry, "the trees look all green, as if they were growing as in summer time,—and not like the trees in the garden which have no leaves upon them in the winter." Emeline, who was well learned in Natural History and Botany, explained all this, saying "that the woods which bore this appearance were composed

of pine trees principally, which were evergreens;—that there were twenty one species of pines,—among which were the cedar of Lebanon that we read of in the Bible,—the silver fir, a beautiful tree,—and the white pine, one of the straightest and tallest of the species, growing to the height of more than one hundred feet." This was the kind which they had seen mostly in the forests they had passed.

In descending a hill, some part of the harness broke, which obliged them to stop at the next house which was close by. This gave them an opportunity to warm themselves, and get relief from the setting posture they had been in for some time. The house at which

they stopped was small and plain ; but a brisk smoke curled from the chimney top, and carried the idea of comfort within. They were kindly led into a small room where there was a good fire, and a bed. Four or five children, coarsely but comfortably clad, looked at their visiters with a good deal of curiosity. After being seated, for a short time, at the fire, little Louisa whispered to her sisters, " that there was somebody in the bed,—and she thought that some one must be sick." Mr. S. who was not unmindful of what had attracted their attention, kindly made inquiry of a middle aged woman who appeared to be the mother of the children, whether any one of her family was ill. " Yes," said the woman with much

sorrow in her countenance, "my poor husband met with a dreadful accident, about a week since." A groan from the bed bore witness to this assertion. "He was cutting wood in the forest when a large tree fell upon him, which broke his leg, and otherwise bruised and hurt him. I dont know that he will ever be able," she said with tears, "to work for his family again." Mr. S. went to the bed-side, and kindly enquired of the poor man concerning his misfortune; but he found him too weak to say much. The children, too, approached the bed, and looked sorrowful and concerned.

The damage to the harness being now repaired, the little party were ready to start

again. Mr. S. before departing enquired of the woman the name of her husband,—and put a bank-bill into her hand. The children hardly needed this example to prompt their good feelings,—for already all the money they could muster among themselves had been put together; and Emeline with the kindest expressions gave it to the poor woman. She appeared deeply affected, and could hardly express the warm thanks that came from her heart.

The party were soon again on their way; and by another road were on their return home. They all appeared more silent and sad than they had been. "I wish," said Mary, "that we had not stopped at the poor,

unfortunate man's; for the thought of his dreadful accident makes me unhappy." "You are wrong, my child, in wishing so. It is a painful case, to be sure; but it has taught you all a good lesson, and afforded an occasion for the exercise of your good feelings. You all wish, undoubtedly, that there was no pain or suffering in the world; but God permits it, to make those who are the subject of it, and those who witness it, better in their hearts and lives. Does it not look as if the sad scene which we have just beheld, was thrown in our way by wise design, to show us while we were in the pursuit of enjoyment, that there is much suffering among others that calls for our sympathy and relief!" The chil-

dren were all thoughtful;—-and they all agreed, that it pained them much to see the case of the poor man; but they felt a happiness in having an occasion to give him something for his comfort, and in expressing their humane feelings for his case. Before they reached home the plan was all arranged for sending to the poor family, many comforts and necessaries which they could well spare themselves.

The children all admired the buffalo skins which afforded them so much protection against the cold that now increased as it grew towards evening. Mr. S. remarked to them, that God had provided for the supply and comfort of man in all shapes. The beast

of the forest and the field,—all the vegetable productions of nature,—the treasures of the sea and the mines were all made for his use. It was only required of him to obtain them by labor,—to make a temperate and proper use of them, and to have a thankful heart towards the Giver of all.

Mary said "she believed that buffaloes were found in this country only; and that there were great numbers of them on the western praries, in a wild state." "O yes," said Herbert, "I remember the Indian mode of taking the buffaloes which I have learned in my geography,"—which is familiar to all my young readers.—Mr. Smithson observed that they were wrong in supposing that

buffaloes were found only on the American continent. They were found in different parts of the globe,—-or animals very near resembling them which were all of the same genus or family. The name in Zoology, which is a description of all animals, is *bos*, signifying *ox*. There were various species, such as the buffalo, the bison, the urus, the zebra. The common ox and cow are derived from the bison,—that is, bisons are *wild* animals of the same kind. Being domesticated and tamed it alters their appearance and habits very much. The skins which are of so common use are taken from the American bison or buffalo. They are found in great droves of thousands on the wild banks of the

Missouri and Mississippi rivers. They are fierce, savage looking animals, as you have all seen by the pictures of them."

As it grew towards evening, and they had got nearly home, they passed a school house. The scholars were just dismissed; and the boys, of which there was a large number, had drawn themselves up into two parties, and were intently engaged in snow-balling. The scene interested Herbert much. He hurraed outright by way of cheering the combatants; and almost sprung from the sleigh in order to join them in their exciting sport. "That's capital fun," said he,—"and I only wish that Jim Waters was there,—for he can throw so hard and true that he would drive

one side all alone." The Misses were not so much interested in the battle,—thinking that it was rather rough and dangerous sport. "It is very exciting play, my son, but there is danger of the parties getting angry,—and then the worst feelings are excited. They fight, then, with something of the temper that men do who go to war to kill, and to harm each other all they can. It is a kind of sport I should not much encourage; for, often in the eagerness of contention, things harder than snow-balls are thrown; and serious wounds have been occasioned." Herbert thought that fair play should always be shown; and no stones or clubs thrown; yet he still thought it excellent fun.

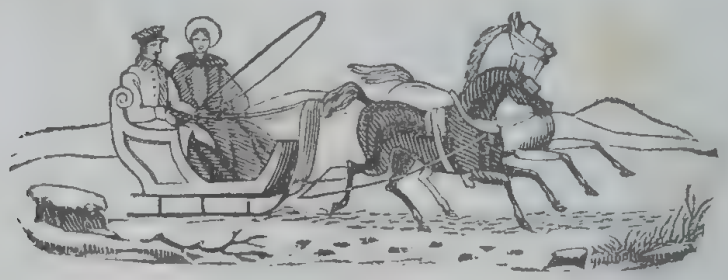
The party arrived safe at home, a little while before dark, after a ride of four or five hours. I have, of course, told but a small part of all that took place,—of all they saw,—and all the interesting conversation they had. It gave Mrs. Smithson much joy to see them return in safety; and she had, already prepared for them, a good warm supper. My young readers need not be told that they all had excellent appetites after such a long ride in the clear air; and having taken no refreshment except what they carried with them in the way of cakes, &c.

After supper, the family were arranged round a good fire, in the large and warm parlour. Each one had many things to tell of

what they had seen. Mr. S. read, and related to them many things concerning the winters, and customs of the people of the cold countries in Europe. He described the sledges drawn by the rein-deer on which the Laplanders ride,—instances of which he had seen himself. He told them likewise of the dress and the various kinds of amusements of the northern people of Europe;—of the *bear-dance*, as it is called, of the Finlanders,—how it is practised by the peasants, and consists in leaping about on *all-fours*,—standing upon the hands sometimes, as well as upon the feet,—and keeping time to the music all the while. The idea of such a dance amused the children much. "I declare," said Mary,

"that it must look very queer and rude,—and more like animals than men." "They are a rather rude and uncultivated people," said Emeline,—"and the amusements of such are unrefined like their characters." Herbert thought that it would be capital fun to see them dance and jump about in this way.

After much conversation,—instructive as well as amusing, the children retired to rest, well inclined to sleep after their wholesome exercise. Little Henry said, next morning, that he dreamed of riding, and could hear the bells gingle all night.



THE JOURNEY.

THERE is no season of the year so pleasant for riding and journeying, as the last of May, when it has become tolerably warm. At this time the fruit trees are all in blossom, which gives the whole country the appearance of a flower garden. The birds, too, sing more at this season than at any other. They have just awoke from a long winter, or have come from other climates; and they feel joyous, and are disposed to treat all with their best songs. All nature is fresh, animated and gay, as if

just awaked from slumber; and the feelings of mankind naturally harmonize with all around them.

It was at this season that the time selected for the promised journey, came round. The last day of May was the birth-day of Mary; and she felt very happy on this occasion. All things had been made ready; and Mary herself had been very busy, for some time, that nothing for the Journey should be left undone.

Most of my young readers cannot be strangers to the joyous feelings which attend those who are about starting on a short journey of pleasure. They rise somewhat earlier than usual,—take an earlier breakfast—and feel their spirits more elevated than usual, by

earlier exercise, and the thoughts of visiting new places, and beholding new scenes. This was the case with the Smithson family. A large carriage had been procured for the occasion, in which they could all be comfortably seated. One thing added greatly to the pleasure of the occasion,—which was, that their mother was going with them.

The carriage was accordingly drawn up to the door, at an early hour on a fine May morning; and after a little animated bustle, the happy party were on their way.

"How delightful the air is," said Mary, "and how sweet! It appears to me that I never felt so happy in all my life! Dear Mother, I think that this ride and this clear, soft

air, must improve your health much ;—it appears to me that you look better already."—Mrs. S. assured her children, that she felt very well,—and the more so, that she saw her children around her so happy. All expressed the delight they felt in the beauty of the morning and in the expected pleasure they had before them.

"Tell Jim, to cut up the horses," said Henry,—"I love to ride fast." "Do not be in too much haste, my son,—"for the faster we go, the sooner the pleasure will be over."

Herbert was glad that they were going by the Colleges before their return,—for he supposed that he must go to college, one of these days,—and he should like to see what

sort of a looking place it was, as he had never seen it.

Emeline was delighted with the expectation of visiting a famous and beautiful garden, a view of which was one of the gratifications they had promised themselves in the way.

The first part of the journey was through towns laying upon the Bay; and every now and then they had a full view of the water, with the numerous vessels which were sailing in different directions.

Herbert thought that they seemed to move very slowly, if they moved at all. His father told him that their appearing to be nearly still was owing to the distance they were off; and that they were probably going pretty fast.—

Many beautiful country seats were also passed by the party.

"What a delightful prospect!" exclaimed Emeline, as the carriage reached the top of a hill which they had been sometime ascending, and now gave the party an extensive view of the whole bay, and the surrounding country. The carriage stopped that all might enjoy the prospect. A river which wound its crooked course through the valley, could be traced all the way until it emptied itself into the ocean. Five or six villages could be seen from where they stood; and a great many farm houses, and country residences.

The young folks thought that they had never seen any thing half so fine as was this view.

The father assured them that their taste was very correct,—for it was considered one of the finest hill prospects in the country. He had seen something similar to it in the Southern part of England ; but, though there were finer buildings there, and the land was more highly cultivated, yet he thought that this prospect, naturally, was more delightful than that.

The road of our travellers, a little distance on, lay over the track of a rail-road. This was a new thing to most of the children, and very much excited their curiosity.

They had now arrived at a bridge in the common road under which the rail-road passed. As it was near the time for the train of cars to come along, they concluded to wait

and see them pass. They all alighted from the carriage, and the horses were taken a little way off, that they might not be frightened by the steam engine. On each side could be seen the straight narrow track for some distance.

Mr. S. took the time they were waiting, to explain the construction of the road,-—how it went nearly in a straight direction, and was all dug to a level, so that there was no going up hill or down, nor any obstructions in the way,—how the iron rails were laid so as to fit the wheels of the cars, &c.

Herbert wanted to go down upon the road, and examine it; but to this his father objected, as the cars would soon be along; and as

they moved very fast, there was danger in not getting out of the way soon enough.

In a short time a quick *puffing* noise was heard at a distance,—-coming nearer and nearer. This they were informed was the noise of the steam engine. Shortly the cars made their appearance at a curve of the road; and before they could hardly realize the sight, the long train filled with people, with the puffing engine ahead, were passing under the bridge,—and in a very few minutes were away off almost out of sight on the other side. The children were so taken up with the new sight, that they hardly spoke a word while it was passing.

"I wish it had stopped a little while, that

we could have seen it," said Henry. "What a funny horse to drag it along, with the smoke coming out of it, with wheels for legs, and two men upon it," said Louisa. "I don't see," said Herbert, "what made it go so fast." "Why, the engine, to be sure," said Mary. "But, then, what made the engine go? That's the puzzle." Emeline thought that it would be a very agreeable mode of riding; and would suit her mother, as there was no violent shaking about it. The train did not appear to move so fast as she had heard of it; but then she was confident that its speed was great, for it was very soon past them, and out of sight. Mr. Smithson said that the apparent, or *seeming* speed, was not

so great, because it was a very large body they saw in motion. Had it been a small body, it would have appeared to have moved much faster.

Mary wished her father "to give them a description of the Steam Engine,—how it was made, and how it operated, to go so fast." He told them it would take more time and attention than they could then spare,—and it was a subject which, perhaps, they could not fully understand; but that, at home, with the aid of drawings, he would tell them all about it.

After having ridden about four hours, the family party arrived at a pretty large village where there were several Cotton Factories. Mrs. Smithson being feeble, and as they did

not wish to proceed with haste, it was concluded to stop here for several hours. This would give them an opportunity to dine—to rest their horses,—and to take a survey of the factories which were a new sight to most of them.

They alighted at an inn in the village, where they found good rooms and accommodations. In a short time, the party,—with the exception of Mrs. S. who was unable to walk any distance,—and little Henry, who having become somewhat tired with the long ride, was willing to keep his mother company,—went out to take a view of the flourishing village and the large brick factories.

The children admired the appearance of

the place. "Why," said Mary, "the houses and all the buildings look new, as if they had just been built." "That is the case," replied Mr. S.—"This, and many other manufacturing places have grown up in a few years, from woods and waste places, to become large towns. The manufacture of cotton cloth has been a profitable business,—-and factories have increased very fast in many parts of the country."

The factories were situated upon a stream of water which was not very wide; but there was a great fall of water that allowed the construction of several *dams*, one below an other. The children easily comprehended how the water was confined in this way where

there was a natural descent in the stream,—and then being allowed to escape through a small gate-way, how it gave motion to the wheels of the factories. "I have made water-wheels myself," said Herbert.

Emeline inquired if the wheels would not sometimes go round very fast,—and then again slow? She thought, that in so nice an operation as the spinning of very fine cotton by machinery, the motion ought to be very steady and uniform. "That is very important," said her father,—"and it can be regulated with the greatest precision by opening the gate just as far as is required.

By the politeness and kindness of the overseer of one of the factories, they were permit-

ted to take a survey of every part of it. He took them from the very beginning, where the cotton was stored in large bales, to where the cloth already manufactured in different qualities, was nicely packed up in bales ready for sale,

During their walk through the factory, the various operations were explained to them with as much minuteness as the time would allow. They were shown the operations of the machines for cleansing the cotton from the seeds—the carding which it underwent twice,—to where it passed into the *cans*, ready for the *drawing* machine,—then to the *roving*,—and finally into the *spinning frame*, from whence it came out beautiful fine thread.

The children were interested and delighted,—but somewhat amazed with this new scene,—the busy machinery with its thousand of wheels, and its almost deafening noise,—yet all performing their several parts with such precision, that they could hardly believe their own eyes when they saw that it was accomplished principally by machinery alone.

From the spinning, they were shown to the *weaving* apartments; where the nicely spun threads after being arranged in the *looms*, were converted into cloth;—the machines moving and the shuttles flying backward and forward all of themselves,—and only requiring the attendance of young women at the looms to join the broken threads, and keep all fn or-

der. A large number of fine looking girls were thus silently employed ; and drew the attention of the visiting party by their neat appearance, and attentive conduct to their business.

Mary thought that she should like to be a *factory girl ;*—but then the constant noise would almost craze her. "It must require a very large number of girls for all the factories in the country," Emily observed. "It does, my dear," said Mr. S. "and they come from all parts of the country. They can earn good wages by attention and industry ;—but then it is a confined life,—for they are obliged to stand by their looms, many hours in a day, and always be very punctual upon the spot.

The employment is not considered as a very healthy one for young females."

They now returned to the inn, delighted with what they had seen. "What a vast quantity of cotton it must take for all the factories," said Mary. "I believe that it is all produced in the Southern States by the planters, and cultivated by the slaves."

The dining hour having not yet arrived, Mr. S. gave his children some account of cotton and its production. He said "that it was a soft vegetable *down*, contained in seed vessels, or pods. It is cultivated in the East and West Indies, in North and South America, and in Egypt. It is an annual plant, and requires a very warm climate.

The fibres of cotton are extremely fine, delicate and flexible. When examined by a microscope they are found to be somewhat flat, and two edged or triangular. These fibres or threads are finely toothed, which explains the cause of their holding together when drawn out into such fine threads as you have seen."

"In the Southern States, the cotton cultivated there is distinguished into three kinds;—the *nankin* cotton,—called so from its color;—the *green seed* cotton, producing white cotton and green seeds;—and the *black seed* cotton. Cotton was found growing in America when the country was discovered."

After resting a few hours during the middle

of the day, the family party had a very pleasant ride through a delightful country. The earth was now clothed with a delightful verdure, and the fruit trees were in full blossom.

"How delightful is the thought," said Mrs. S., "that we have beauty and utility so united in nature. God might have given us fruit without the blossoms first; but his goodness charms our eyes at the same time that it is preparing to give us food for sustenance."

"It is a beautiful idea," said Emeline,—"and ought to call forth our gratitude. All plants flower, I believe, before they bring forth their fruit."

A little before night-fall, our little jaunting party arrived at a neat little village, where

they concluded to spend the night. It was situated upon a small river where there was a fall of water. It was a beautiful cascade of considerable extent,—the water falling over the rocks down a descent of several feet,—and then tumbling and foaming over the rapids below. It was a new sight to the children, and interested them much. They spent the time until it was dark in viewing this animated and noisy scene; and the evening was taken up in conversing about Water Falls, of which they all had read.

Each one of the children was requested to tell what they recollected about remarkable cataracts in any part of the world. Herbert said "that the Falls of Niagara, between lake

Ontario and lake Erie, in the northern part of the United States, were the greatest falls in the world. All the water that runs from the great American lakes goes over them ; and, that they were more than a half mile wide, and the water falls one hundred and fifty feet."

Mary said, " that the Falls of the Rhine, in Switzerland, were the most celebrated in Europe. The descent of the water was eighty feet; and it foamed to such a degree that it looked like a cataract of snow. The noise occasioned by the falls was said to be almost equal to that of Niagara."

" The Fall of Tequendama, in Columbia, South America," said Emeline, " was a very extraordinary cataract. The river of Bogota

was here contracted to a very narrow width; and the water at two bounds was precipitated to the depth of six hundred and twenty feet."

Louisa recollected something of the Passaic Falls in New Jersy, which she had read about. The water tumbled from a great height; and the scene was very wild and romantic.

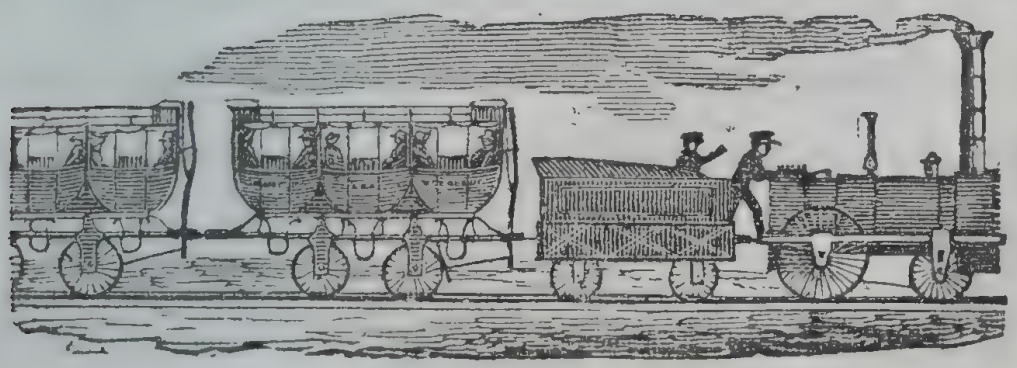
Mr. Smithson observed to his children, "that he had seen many cataracts both in this country and in Europe; but as a grand and sublime sight there was none equal to Niagara. Without seeing them, no one could form a just idea how they looked."

After retiring to rest, the children could hardly compose themselves to sleep on account of the noise of the little cataract which

was near the Hotel where they lodged. The next morning they had a continuance of good weather; and they set forward at an early hour. Mr. S. designed to return home by a different road than that by which they had come; and one that led through very pleasant towns.

On their way, they saw much to interest them, and to converse about. They stopped at a very extensive and beautiful garden in a neighboring town, as they had been promised. The owner who was a very polite and kind gentleman, took them to every part of it, showing to them, and describing many rare and beautiful plants which he had in an extensive Green-house, as well as in his open garden.

After their visit to this garden, which took up considerable time, the party proceeded towards home, without meeting with any particular occurrence. They arrived in good time, on the same day, at the "Mountain Cottage,"—highly delighted with the events of their short journey; and having seen many new and curious things which afforded them subjects of conversation at home for a long time.



THE SAILING PARTY.

"The Mountain Cottage," as I said before, was situated upon a hill of considerable height. It was about a half of a mile distant from the shore of the bay; and a very pretty serpentine or crooked walk led from the Cottage to the *landing*, as it was called. This landing was a small wharf,—and near it was a pretty little bathing-house, for salt water bathing.

It was on a mild summer morning on the 29th of June, that Mr. Smithson and his five

children, with a servant, were seen walking with a cheerful step down the eastern avenue. Each one had a basket, an extra garment, or some other article intended for the "Sailing Party." My readers need not be told that this was Herbert's birth day. He took, as may well be supposed, great interest in the occasion; and had been very busy for several days in preparing the fishing lines, and getting every other thing in order necessary for the water excursion.

In proceeding down the avenue, as the party came to a turn in it which gave them a view of the water, Herbert exclaimed, "There is the boat almost up the bay!" and

away he ran in his eager joy, ahead of the rest.

Mr. Smithson had a very pretty boat of his own which was kept moored near the landing; but as it was not considered large enough for the present excursion, as they intended to go some distance, he had sent to a port, a few miles off, and engaged a fine large boat, and a boatman to accompany them.

The party all arrived at the wharf before the boat; and were in readiness to go directly on board. As the little vessel swept round in a graceful curve, and came gently up to the wharf, the children looked delighted, and none more so than Herbert. He was the first into the boat,—and, too, before she had fairly stop-

ped. In a few minutes all were safely seated; and the boat, with a fine breeze, was fast leaving the shore.

Many of my young readers have undoubtedly experienced the pleasing sensations which come over those who have just embarked on a water party,—all seated,—and have commenced their progress, with the prospect of pleasant weather and a great deal that is new and exciting before them. To be moving smoothly and delightfully upon the water is a situation in which most children are not frequently placed;—the scene is new,—and the fresh breeze from the water serves to enliven their spirits;—and I believe that there are few happier moments than the first setting out of a sailing excursion.

Herbert, looking over the stern of the boat, said "that its name was the Swiftsure,—and he knew from the looks of it that it was a very fast sailer." The misses and little Henry shew some timidity at first; but the motion of the boat and the water soon grew familiar to them. So taken up were the children with their new situation, and the fine prospect of the shores as they glided along, that they had got a considerable distance from the place of starting before they were aware of it. "Is that the bathing-house away off yonder?" said Louisa,—"why it looks no larger than the martin house."

"I guess we go as much as ten knots an hour," said Herbert, putting on a little of the

sailor. The boatman told him that he was rather large in his reckoning,—that they were probably going not more than five miles an hour—and that was pretty good sailing for a boat.

The day upon the water afforded a great many incidents for inquiry, remark and conversation. Mary said that she could well understand how the boat was pressed through the water by the wind blowing against the sails; but she did not clearly see how that the wind blew in one direction, and the boat went in another. I should think that the boat would go the same way with the wind.

"Why, we are *beating*," said Herbert,—"dont you see that we keep *tacking*, every

little while?" "We are beating, to be sure," said the father,—"but your sister does not, probably, understand the term *beating* which you make use of,—nor does it explain what she asked. The wind is now blowing nearly opposite the way we wish to go,—so that if the boat would go only in the direction of the wind, we should be wafted back again,—indeed, we could not have left the shore. The wind is now blowing directly against the side of the boat,—still it is pushed forward in another direction;—and the reason is this:—the wind comes strongly against the sails, and of course it must move in some direction. By means of the rudder against which the current of the water strikes, the head, or bow of

the boat as it is called, is kept in that direction; and, as it would be very hard to push the boat sideways, it is thus forced forward in an angling direction from the wind."

"In this way vessels are carried forward directly against the direction of the wind, by this method, called *beating*,—that is, in going in a zig-zag direction,—first one way, and then the other, by constantly turning, or *tacking*, as the sailors call it. In this way, something is gained in the direction you wish to go, by every tack. Vessels in going voyages often have to proceed much of the time in this way,—for the wind does not always blow fair. It takes them longer, for they have to sail over more distance." By the father's explanation,

and by watching the movement and progress of the boat, the children were able to understand this part of navigation.

"Navigation is a wonderful art," said Emeline;—"that man, in a little building of his own making, should thus be able to sail over all the oceans of the globe, visit distant countries,—and proceed, too, with so much certainty, when out of sight of land, by night as well as by day, was truly wonderful."

Louisa inquired if navigators could go such great distances, and where they could not see land, and in any direction they pleased, without the Mariner's Compass? "No," said Mr. S. "navigation would be very limited and very hazardous without it. The needle

of the compass, you know, always points towards the north; and by means of this simple but very important instrument, the seamen can always tell in what direction the vessel is going, whether they can see the sun, stars or not."

"How deep is the water of the sea?" inquired Mary. "It is of very various depths," replied the father. "The water of the ocean is much deeper than that of bays. Some parts of the ocean are supposed to be as much as five or six miles deep,—but there are no means of telling with any precision how deep it is. The bottom of the ocean is supposed to be as uneven as the surface of the

land—rising into high mountains, and sinking into low vallies in the same way."

"What a strange sight the bottom of the ocean must be, pa!" "Yes, my dear, it must be a strange sight to man, could he behold it,—but this is impossible. The millions of different kinds of fish which rove about in it,—its rocks and caverns,—coral, and sea plants,—and all the treasures which have ever been sunk in it, would form a very strange sight."

"Are we not upon the ocean now," enquired little Henry,—"I'm sure it looks large enough to be an ocean." "It is a bay, but at the same time a part of the Atlantic ocean. By sailing all day out to sea, we should in fact be upon the ocean;—and then, by going

on for a whole month in a large vessel, we should sail nearly three thousand miles, and reach Europe."

"How delightful," said Emeline, "to cross the ocean and see distant countries!" "Yes it is pleasant to see foreign countries with their new and strange sights;—but then there is danger in crossing the ocean, as you all know from the account of shipwrecks of which you have read;—and besides, people who are not accustomed to sail so far, suffer much from sea sickness."

As the day was fine, and there was very little motion of the waves, Mr. S. directed the boatman to steer off some distance from the land. They had now gone as much as five or

six miles from the place from which they started. "The Mountain Cottage" could still be seen, though it looked dim and very small.

In this way, having a good steady wind they sailed about, and passed many small islands, on which the children were desirous of landing. They had the promise of stopping and going upon one of them before their return home. They passed, too, very near a large steam boat which was out on an excursion with a large party. It went ploughing, and dashing with its wheels past them, affording to most of them a novel and interesting sight. The older children, since their journey, had been instructed in some knowledge of the

steam-engine,—and they could now understand something of its operation.

After sailing for a number of hours, the boatman took his little vessel near a small island, which he said was a good place for fishing. He then took down his sails and dropped his anchor. The next thing was, to get the fishing lines ready. This was soon accomplished, and the lines were down. The fish were found to be very plenty; and it afforded fine sport, although it was new business to the most of them.

Even little Henry had his line down.—"What is pulling my line away so," said he, almost letting go it. His father seized it, just in time to save, and pull in a fine large

fish. "I caught it," said Henry, proud of his prize. "Yes, my son, you hooked it,—but had to have a little assistance in getting it up."

"This is capital fun," said Herbert,—"I could fish all day long." "But only think how it hurts the dear little creatures,—and kills them too! Is it right to take the lives of the little fish so, pa,"—said Louisa. "For mere sport or the pleasure of fishing only, it is not right;—but it is not wrong to catch them for food; for they were made and given to man for that purpose."

"How many kinds of fish in all, are there in the sea and rivers," enquired Mary. "There are many thousand;—the number

enumerated I do not now recollect." "Naturalists have divided fish into five orders," answered Emeline.

Fish enough were soon obtained; and the party made preparation to go upon the little island near which they were. The work of getting out of the boat, and clambering over the rocks, gave them some difficulty and excitement. In a short time, however, they were all safely on shore. The boatman and servant were left to make a fire upon the rocks, prepare the fish, and cook them for a repast. While they were doing this, the rest of the party took a ramble over the island. It was not large; but they found a good deal to interest them. There were wild peas grow-

ing upon it,—and some other plants they had not before seen,—specimens of which they took home with them.

An incident occurred while they were on the island which gave them much pleasure. Emeline had wandered away by herself picking up sea-shells upon the shore until she had lost sight of the party. While seated near a rock looking at her shells, she was surprised by the appearance of a little dog which came up suddenly to her. She was at first alarmed;—but as the dog looked good naturedly and seemed to ask her protection, she spoke kindly to it, and it came up and caressed her hand. She soon joined the others with her

EMELINE AND THE DOG.

new formed acquaintance; and they were all delighted with the acquisition to their company. The boatman said, that it had probably been left upon the island by accident. He gave it something to eat, for it was almost starved.

After the ramble upon the island, and having rested themselves and partaken of their repast, the party were again in the boat, and on their return home. The little dog was the first into the boat,—being determined, it appeared, not to be left again upon the island. Emeline was much attached to her new acquaintance,—and said, that if she could not find the owner, she should keep it, and

call it "Foundling." Louisa thought that it ought to be called Alexander Selkirk or Robinson Crusoe, because they found it on a solitary island.

There remains little or nothing more to relate of the Sailing Party. In the afternoon, as is often the case, the wind became very gentle, so that there was only a soft breeze. The boat moved very slowly homeward; but the little party lost nothing, so delightful was the air and the prospect all around them. The water, about sunset,—the time they arrived at the landing,—was as smooth as a mirror, in which the shores were beautifully reflected.

The day spent upon the water suggested a good many new ideas in the observing and in-

quiring minds of the young folks, and afforded them topics for conversation and subjects of study for some time.

THE WALK.

WALKING, at many seasons of the year, is a delightful and healthy exercise; and I wonder that it is not more practiced by all those who have leisure. Nothing can afford more pleasure to all who have a taste for the beauties of nature. It cannot be time mispent,—for, go where you will, you will find subjects of instruction.

It is said, that people, and especially females, are accustomed to walk much less in this country, than they are in England. There,

misses, and people of almost all ages, will walk six or eight miles from home, and spend the whole day abroad in the fields and among the hills.

There are many people among us who will take a walk for an hour, or so,—but this is hardly entitled to the name. A good part of a day should be spent abroad in this way,—taking refreshment and resting delightfully under the trees. This is the kind of *walk* of which I shall give an account in as few words as possible.

The Smithson family often took rambles of a half day each;—but in this instance they started at a pretty early hour, intending to spend the whole day abroad. Mr. S., though consider-

ably advanced above middle age, and being a large man, too, was still able to walk a considerable number of miles, if he went slowly. He had always accustomed himself to it,—and that which is made habitual becomes pleasant and easy.

This was little Louisa's birth-day,—and a very pleasant one it was, too,—about the middle of September. Warm autumnal days are the most delightful of the year,—and the most conducive to thought and reflection.

The Mountain Cottage, as I have said, was situated about a half mile from the sea-shore. Back of it, a few miles, and in full view, there were high hills and woodlands. On the South side, a few miles distant, was, again, the sea-

shore bounded by high rocky cliffs of much wildness and sublimity. Each of the places afforded much that was curious and interesting. In the woods and among the hills, there was a great variety of wild plants, and many kinds of birds which do not come near the dwellings of man. The party set out with the intention of spending the time equally in the woods, among the hills, and upon the seashore.

On a fine, autumnal morning, then, our family with the exception of Mrs. S. and little Henry whose strength and age were not equal to the fatigue, set out on the promised walk. Although Mrs. S. could not make one of the the party, she fully participated in the pleasure, by the delight she saw it afforded her children, and by the expectation of listening to their rela-

tions on their return home, of all they had seen. Even the little dog "Foundling," which had become quite a favorite, was one of the party, and to all appearances not the least pleased one.

Each one was equipped for the ramble. The misses had each a basket in which they carried their refreshments for the day; and in which they designed to bring home specimens of the plants and minerals which they should collect. Herbert was equipped with an Indian bow and arrow, which were among the playthings his father had brought from abroad.

Before setting out, it was arranged that Emeline and Louisa should attend to the collecting of plants and minerals; and Mary and Herbert were to note down the names of all the different kinds of birds they might see. These things were to afford them subjects for study afterward, by a reference to books.

A walk of two hours brought them to a pleasant forest. The different kinds of trees of which it was composed led to a conversation on the nature of each, and the purposes for which they were used. Emeline broke off small branches of each,—and she likewise found here many wild plants, some of which were in flower. The birds, too, were all observed, and their names taken. Herbert often tried his skill with his bow, much against his sisters' wishes;—but his arrows proved harmless. His father had suffered him to bring it, with the belief that he could do no harm with it.

The children were startled and amused with the loud scream of the blue jay,—with its bright colors and restless movements. The cross-beak, too, attracted their attention; and Emeline said she was desirous of studying

more its history in her books of Ornithology. A large flock of wild pigeons rushed by them, which led to a conversation on the migratory habits of these birds, and the immense flocks which are found in the western wilderness.

After spending some time in the wood, they set off for the adjacent hills. The cliffs of these afforded them some specimens of minerals,—the different classes of which Emeline was able to cite.

A somewhat laborious walk soon brought them to the top of one of the highest hills in the neighborhood. A very extended view, both of sea and land, was here presented them. Louisa thought "that it was much higher than the hill on which the cottage was situated; and better deserving the name of a mountain." Mr. S, said, "that neither of

them was properly entitled to that name, We have no mountains in this part of the country."

A conversation then took place about the most noted mountains in the world. The father gave them some account of the appearance of those he had seen in his travels;—of the famous Alps,—the Peak of the Teneriffe, and the volcanic mountain Ætna. When they were told that some of these were thirty times as high as the hill on which they were seated, it called forth their wonder, and a desire to see such enormous mountains.

"How wonderful, how curious, and how beautiful," observed Mr. S., "is Nature in all its aspects! How much to study and admire! Yet there are comparatively very few who derive either delight or instruction from all

these things;—they see, perhaps, all around them, but it excites neither admiration or reflection."

"As they were intended by our Maker to delight and instruct us," Emeline remarked,—"is it not slighting his bounty,—is it not sinful to be blind and deaf as it were, to them?"

"Most certainly," answered her father,—"yet we find multitudes of such; and they complain of a want of ways to spend their time, and of subjects of interest,—and all because they have not formed a taste and habits of studying the varieties and beauties of nature."

After quitting the hill, a short walk brought them into a delightful valley. Here, beside a little stream which came down from the hill, they concluded to stop and rest awhile, and partake of the dinner which was stored in

their baskets. A little bower, by means of a few branches from the trees, was soon made to shelter them from the sun.

While seated here enjoying their repast, and conversing on various subjects, a couple of sportsmen passed by them. The misses wondered that they could be so cruel as to shoot the pretty birds for mere sport; and they would have gladly bought the birds they carried in their hands, had they been alive, that they might have given them their liberty.

Their next direction was for the sea-shore, which lay a mile or two from them. On their way, Mary and Herbert, being apart from the rest, passed by a laborer who stood looking intently at something at a distance. As they came near him, "do you see that sight yonder, my children?"—said he. "What

sight?" inquired Herbert. "The balloon away off in the air," said he. They looked, and saw it, to be sure. "There is no one in it, I hope," said Mary—"and certainly it is too small to carry any one." "Yes, there is,"—said the man,—"and a great fool he is to trust himself up in the air." "But, sir," said Mary, "what a beautiful sight it must give him of the earth below,—and I suppose that he is well paid for going up in it, too." "There can't be much use in flying in the air," answered the man,—"and I don't think that any one has a right to risk his life so, either for gain, or any thing else."

Mary and Herbert, with their eyes fixed upon the balloon which was now almost out of sight, soon joined the rest of the party. They, too, had discovered it. During their

THE WELL INSTRUCTED FAMILY.

THE BALLOON.

walk, Mr. S. entertained his children with a description of balloons,—the manner in which they were made, and how they were made to ascend in the air. He told them, too, of those persons who had most distinguished themselves by flying in this way in the air ; and of some of the disasters that had happened.

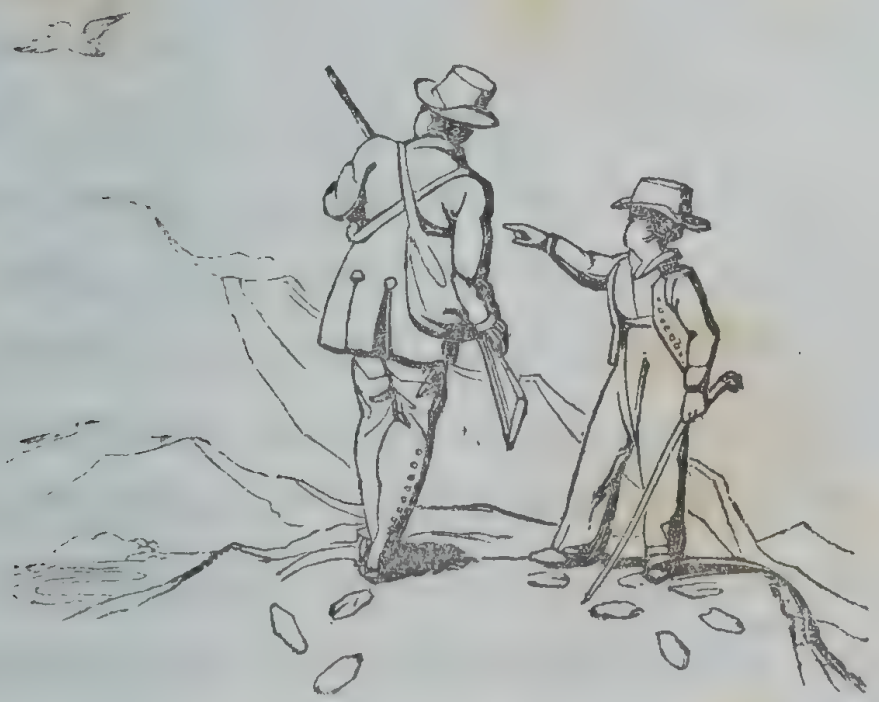
In a short time, the party were upon the sea-shore, where they spent an hour very agreeably in surveying the high rocky cliffs, the deep chasms, and the dashing waves below. "Do you not suppose, father," said Emeline, "that these shores have altered in appearance very much in the course of years,—and that these deep chasms have been made in the rocks by the constant dashing of the waves?" "Certainly,—the sea is constantly wearing the shores in this way. Probably

this same shore extended some miles farther into the sea, a century or two ago." Herbert thought that it was not strange that vessels were dashed to pieces when they were driven upon such rocks by high winds and the force of the waves.

An hour was here intently spent in viewing the wide sea which opened to their view,—many vessels sailing in sight,—and in watching the white sea-gulls darting and screaming around the cliffs. Some shells and minerals were likewise collected here.

We must now haste with the party homeward;—and they did not reach the Cottage until after the sun was down, and a full moon had began to send abroad its white light in place of the golden atmosphere which had pervaded through this pleasant autumnal day.

They were all considerably fatigued with the long walk; but fully repaid by the many pleasant incidents they had met with, and the new objects which had excited their inquiry and thirst for knowledge.



THE FAMILY AT HOME.

THE season was now somewhat advanced, and nature began to wear the faded appearance of autumn. The family at the Mountain Cottage had, all of them, enjoyed excellent health; and the reasons were, that the greatest regularity was observed in their habits,—they were accustomed to constant exercise, and were always happily employed, and, in consequence, were always cheerful and contented. The children had all been engaged, through the season, in those studies which were proper for the age of each, and necessary to lay the foundation of a good education.

Mr. Smithson had the whole care of the instruction of his children; and in the discharge of it he was very methodical and careful. Each thing they undertook was learned well before they were allowed to quit it;—there was no half learning a subject, and a constant changing from one thing to another. He felt much gratified with the progress his children had made during the season.

I have said that the greatest order and regularity were observed in the family in every respect. The routine of a week can be put down in a few words:—On the Sabbath all attended Church, which was about a mile from the Cottage, in a neighboring village. Nothing but illness or severe weather ever exempted any of the family from this important duty. On the other days of the week, the

order of each was pretty much the same. They all rose at a stated early hour,—varying, of course, with the season; they then exercised for a half hour in the open air; and then came together for family worship which was conducted in a simple and attentive manner.

At nine o'clock, they all repaired to the hall which was devoted to the purpose, and there sat down to the studies and lessons which had been assigned them, with the same regularity they would at any school. Four hours, with a short intermission, were spent in this manner in the hall. After that, until the hour of dining each one was allowed to choose any recreation that was prefered.

The afternoon was spent in a more varied and less orderly manner. Part of the time was spent in reading such books as had been

selected by their father,—in conversations upon various subjects,—in exciting and healthful sports,—in walking in the garden and the fields;—in collecting plants and other natural objects, and then studying their nature and their uses in books, of which Mr. S. had a great variety.

There was one way of instruction of which Mr. S. made use, that he considered very important. It was this;—he required his children to observe and note down all they saw; and then by turning to books, and by conversation with their parents and among themselves about such subjects, to get a familiar knowledge of what had been thus brought before their minds. Much of their reading was directed by this design.

Thus, their journey, the sailing party,—ev-

ery ramble in the fields, started many subjects for inquiry and research. Mr. S. spent a good deal of time in talking with his children about different countries,—of natural history, the arts, &c. and it was, at first my intention of giving much of these conversations in this book, for my young readers; but I soon found that it would make the little volume much larger than I intended; and that it was best to make the *Conversations of the Smithson Family*, the subject of another little volume.

Mountain Cottage was a beautiful and tasteful dwelling. It was but two stories high, and was surrounded by piazzas, on the top of which were secure walks quite round the house. It was embowered by trees and shrubbery; and though not high, it was a large building, and divided into various apartments both for com-

fort and elegance. The Hall, which was the school room of the family, was in the second story. It was a large, airy and pleasant room; from the windows of which a very extended view was presented.

The Hall, after being cleared of the school furniture, was selected as the room for the chief entertainment of the Party which was to be given on the occasion of Emeline's birth-day. It was tastefully dressed for this purpose, with such flowers as the season afforded, and hung with many beautiful decorations and curious things which Mr. S. had brought from distant countries.

Emeline had spent considerable time, and taken great pains in preparing and arranging everything for this occasion which had been so long in contemplation. A short distance from

the Cottage, near a favorite grove of hers, there was a luxuriant grape-vine. During the summer, she had got her father to have a summer-house built here,—and the vine was then trained over it,—forming a most enchanting bower. (See Frontispiece.)

In this she intended to have a repast of tea, cakes and fruits for her company; and then conduct them to it before they knew that there was such a place; and thus, by a little surprise, to make the pleasure greater. This she did,—and it had a very pleasant effect,—and much enjoyment was given by this simple and sylvan repast.

But I am getting before my story. The day for Emeline's party at length arrived. It was before the middle of October,—but the weather was yet mild. As the children received their instruction at home, they had not

made any school acquaintances,—so the circle of their intimate friends was not large. The party, of course, was not a numerous one. They had a family of cousins who lived in a distant city,—three of whom were on a visit to the Cottage. This added much to the pleasure of the occasion.

It was a happy hour for Emeline, and indeed for all the rest, when their young friends began to come up the avenue and arrive at the Cottage. They were at first entertained in the Hall,—where, after the first ceremonies, they spent some time in viewing many things new to them with which the room was hung. All the pictures, on this occasion, ornamented the walls of the hall,—and there were many rare and beautiful ones among them.

Afterward, they interested themselves in viewing distant objects, on the sea and land,

with a very large telescope which Mr. S. kept in the cupola of the Cottage. A solar microscope then amused and amazed them for some time, by its wonderful power.

When they had enjoyed themselves for an hour or two in all that the Cottage had to interest them, they sallied out into the fields and groves. It was an animated and delightful sight, to see a score of young, innocent and happy beings, flitting from object to object like gay and joyous butterflies. They soon separated into small parties in pursuit of different diversions.

Some were soon engaged in games which agreed well with the exhileration of their spirits;—some in the exciting and dizzy pleasure of swinging in a high and secure *swing*, which was on a large oak tree in one of the groves;—others were romping with

"Foundling," amused with his sportive gambols,—and he seemed to enter into the feelings of the occasion as much as the children themselves. Others were watching a little fleet of beautiful ducks which were sailing upon the pond;—and another part were clapping their hands at seeing Herbert's mimic ship make its passages across the pond.

Thus, the afternoon was nearly spent in high pleasure. At last, Emeline summoned all together, and told them that she had a short walk to lead them where they had not been. She then took them round into another grove, and came suddenly and unexpectedly upon her favorite bower. When they all entered it, and saw the table spread, they could hardly believe their own eyes; and doubted whether it was a reality or delusion.

After a very cheerful half hour spent in the bower, they all repaired to the Cottage. The time of departure had now arrived,—for as many of them lived at some distance, they did not extend their visit into the evening.

Thus ended a half day in our little family, which afforded the highest gratification to all; and added one more to the many happy days that were seen at the MOUNTAIN COTTAGE.

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